

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 280428

67

ORIGIN NEA-03

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O 232221Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, BG

SUBJECT: CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. I AM ALWAYS GRATEFUL AT THIS SEASON FOR THE CHANCE TO STEP BACK FROM THE DAILY RUSH AND REFLECT A LITTLE ON OUR LARGER PURPOSES. NEA HAS HAD ITS SHARE OF DIFFICULTIES THIS YEAR, BUT IN SOUTH ASIA, AND BANGLADESH IN PARTICULAR, WE CAN MARK A GENUINE IMPROVEMENT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. THE SECRETARY'S TRIP, OF COURSE, IS THE SYMBOL OF THAT IMPROVEMENT. AS I TOLD YOU IN DACCA, WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE EFFORT YOU AND ALL YOUR STAFF PUT IN TO MAKE THAT JOURNEY A SUCCESS. THIS SEEMS AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT, HOWEVER, TO TELL YOU ALSO HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE PERSONALLY AS WELL AS OFFICIALLY YOUR EFFORTS TO FURTHER OUR RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH. DACCA IS NOT AN EASY POST, AND YOU DO NOT HAVE AN EASY TASK. I WANT YOU AND ALL THE AMERICANS AT POST, HOWEVER, TO KNOW HOW MUCH THE WORK YOU DO IS VALUED.

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PAGE 02 STATE 280428

3. I HOPE THAT THE HOLIDAYS ARE HAPPY FOR YOU, AND THAT

THE NEW YEAR IS A FRUITFUL ONE. PLEASE CONVEY MY

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU DURING YOUR CONSULTATIONS EARLY IN 1975. SINCERELY,
ALFRED L. ATHERTON.

4. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT. KISSINGER

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